

CHAPTEE

XIV.¹ 1840.

THE SECOND FUNERAL OF NAPOLEON.

FROM the time of its burial in 1821 the body of Napoleon lay in its quiet grave under the willows at St. Helena, the solitude only broken by the visit of many English and a few French passengers from the ships then taking the Cape route to India and calling at the Island. In 1830 the elder branch of the Bourbons fell, and Louis Philippe succeeded Charles X. The new monarchy professed to be liberal and national enough not to fear reviving the memories of the great Emperor. The tri-color once more waved over France, and at last it seemed impossible to let the body of the Emperor rest in its distant grave.

M. Thiers, the then head of the French Ministry, determined to apply to England for the restoration of the corpse. It was thought right to ask the opinion of the old Duke of Wellington, and the Duke, as ungenerous to his dead foe as he had been to him when alive, advised the retention of the body to prevent its cession being considered as due to fear.]STobler counsels prevailed, and Lord Palmerston in-generous words gave an affirmative answer. "The Government of Her Majesty hope that the promptness of this response will be considered in France as a proof of their desire to efface all traces of those national animosities which, during the life of the Emperor, armed against each other the French and

¹ This chapter is added by the editor of the 1885 edition.